

*Anti-Semitism file*

20 SEP 1964

AMENDMENT EXPRESSING THE  
SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT PER-  
SECUTION OF ANY PERSONS BE-  
CAUSE OF RELIGION BY SOVIET  
UNION BE CONDEMNED

(Mr. RUMSFELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUMSFELD. Mr. Speaker, since the Foreign Assistance Act of 1964 will now go to conference, I wish to take this opportunity to urge the House conferees to accept the Senate amendment to the bill expressing the sense of the Congress that "persecution of any persons because of their religion by the Soviet Union be condemned, and that the Soviet Union in the name of decency and humanity cease executing persons for alleged economic offenses, and fully permit the free exercise of religion and the pursuit of culture by Jews and all others within its borders."

This amendment, Mr. Speaker, which I have quoted only in part, is similar to the resolution—House Resolution 872—which I introduced on September 1, 1964, and which has been referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee. My resolution is only one of many that have been introduced on this important subject in both the House and the Senate. Because of the approaching adjournment of the Congress, these resolutions cannot possibly be given consideration, but by the adoption of the Senate amendment to H.R. 11380, the Congress of the United States can go on record, now, against the infringement of one of man's most basic rights—that of freedom of religion.

Although there is no doubt that the religious difficulties faced by the Jews in the Soviet Union are shared by other

religious faiths, the reports of anti-Semitism in other fields, particularly in the suppression of alleged economic crimes, gives evidence that the leaders of the Soviet Union have made the Jewish citizens of their land the target of dangerous propaganda, which cannot be justified for any reason, at any time.

An important staff study published in the summer 1964 issue of the "Journal of the International Commission of Jurists" discusses the extent to which the repression of economic crimes is linked with anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. This study documents in great detail actual court cases involving so-called economic crimes and in what respects these cases may be linked to anti-Semitism. The study concludes that Jewish participation in economic crimes has been magnified and that the Jews of the Soviet Union have been made the "scapegoat for the transgressions of those whose guilt it would be dangerous to make public."

I commend this revealing report to my colleagues. The "Journal of the International Commission of Jurists"—summer, 1964—is available through the Library of Congress.